



January 26, 2006

**TO:** Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

**FROM:** Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

**RE:** Highway 101 GAP Closure Projects – Status Report, Including Puerto Suello Hill Soundwall and Bike Path Alternatives – Agenda Item 10

#### **Executive Summary**

Caltrans has completed its analysis of the low bid for the Central San Rafael Segment submitted by Mitchell Construction and determined that they did not meet all requirements. They are pursuing award to the second low bidder, Ghillotti Construction Inc. of San Rafael for \$48.5M. It is currently scheduled for the CTC to vote the necessary additional funds from the STIP and SHOPP. at the February 3 CTC meeting so that award of the contract can proceed. Construction is expected to commence in March. No further action by the TAM Board is necessary at this time regarding the Central San Rafael Segment 3 project award.

For the Puerto Suello Hill Segment 4, staff has continued refining the design of the multi-use path and has further investigated access at Linden Avenue, an undercrossing at the Lincoln Avenue ramps and the terminus at Mission Avenue and Stevens Place per direction given by the TAM Board at the December 15, 2005 meeting. A summary of the results of the evaluation of these path features will be presented at the meeting and recommended courses of action are included in this report. In addition, staff has investigated sound absorption options for the east and west soundwalls that will maximize noise reduction. These items will also be presented at the meeting and recommendations regarding viable sound absorption options are also included in this report. **Recommendation: The TAM Board concur on moving forward with detailed design and environmental clearance for the path features and sound-absorbing wall options, to include additional public input.**

#### **Central San Rafael – Contract Award**

Caltrans analyzed the bids for the Central San Rafael Highway 101 Carpool Lane Gap Closure Project and determined that the apparent low bidder, Mitchell Construction, did not meet the bid requirements and their bid has been rejected. In accordance with standard procedures, the award process proceeds to the next low bidder, Ghilotti Brothers, Inc. of San Rafael. The Ghilotti bid is \$48.5M and 650 working days. An additional \$11.8M is needed to award this contract, which includes the bid overrun plus supplemental work, State Furnished Material and contingencies. Additional funds will be voted from both the SHOPP and the STIP. There will be impact on Marin County's future share of the STIP. It is expected that these funds will be approved at the Feb 3, 2006 CTC meeting. Once the funds are approved, Caltrans can award the contract. It is expected that construction will start in March, 2006.

A public information meeting regarding the project is scheduled for March 2, 2006 at the San Rafael Community Center on B Street. The meeting format will be an Open House and the public will have an opportunity to learn about the project, what to expect during construction, and the construction staging and detours. A ground breaking ceremony is being scheduled for early March.

### **Puerto Suello Hill – Multi Use Path**

TAM staff and the Nolte design team have proceeded with refining the design of the multi-use path with the approval of the base alignment at the December 15, 2005 meeting. In addition, other project elements have been investigated based on input received from the TAM Board at the December meeting including:

- A “break-away” path at Linden Avenue to provide an access point for the Lincoln Avenue and Dominican communities
- The terminus of the path at Stevens Place and Mission Avenue
- An undercrossing option at the Lincoln Avenue ramps

These elements will be presented in more detail at the TAM Board meeting.

As these features are now clearly scheduled to be included in the Highway 101 project bid package, it is paramount that detailed design proceed expeditiously so as not to delay the Highway 101 project construction.

The schedule for including these elements into the Caltrans Gap Closure Segment 4 project over Puerto Suello Hill is as follows:

- Approve Amendment to Nolte Contract to finalize design – January 26, 2006
- Type Selection for structures – February 2006
- 95% Level of Design Complete - April 2006
- Bid Ready Package – May 2006
- Begin Construction with Mainline Project – January 2007
- Complete Construction – December, 2008

### **Puerto Suello Hill - Soundwall Sound Absorption Material**

At the December 15, 2005 meeting, staff received direction to take the lead in the design and incorporation of sound absorption material for the east and west soundwalls into the project. Since that time, the Nolte design team has investigated options that will maximize sound absorption. These options include Soundfighter and Soundsorb and will be presented at the Board meeting. Staff is seeking direction from the Board to move forward with presenting the options to the community in February.

### **Staff Recommendations**

#### **Bikepath**

Staff recommends that the TAM board provide concurrence for continuing the design and pursuing environmental clearance for the following path elements:

- A “break-away” path at Linden Avenue to provide an access point for the Lincoln Avenue and Dominican communities

- The terminus of the path at Stevens Place and Mission Avenue
- An undercrossing option at the Lincoln Avenue ramps

### **Soundwalls**

Staff recommends that the TAM Board provide concurrence to proceed with the proposed alternative sound absorption material options and to present the information to the community at a public meeting in February.